

## METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: August 16, 2004

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:30 p.m.

### ATTENDANCE

#### Attending Members

Steve Talley, Chairman  
Ron Gibson  
Becky Langsford  
Jackie Nytes  
Marilyn Pfisterer  
Mike Speedy

#### Absent Members

Angela Mansfield

### AGENDA

### **BUDGET HEARING**

Overview – Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Division of Administration  
Division of Community Development and Financial Services

## METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, August 9, 2004. Chairman Steve Talley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Ron Gibson, Becky Langsford, Jackie Nytes, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Mike Speedy. Absent was Angela Mansfield. Also present was Kent Burrow, Chief Financial Officer of the Council.

### **Overview – Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD)**

Maury Plambeck, Director of DMD, said for budget purposes the economic development, real estate services, and financial services are in the division of administrative services. He went on to give a break down of the organization of the department.

- Neighborhood services consist of the Mayor's Action Center (MAC) and Township Administrators (TA). He said the MAC has finally implemented their Citizens Relations Management system. This system will dramatically impact the services they are able to give to citizens and the responses. He said the township administrators are the liaison between the government and the citizens.
- They have made improvements in compliance, by increasing the enforcement rate. In 2004 they are expecting dramatic increases in inspections and violation numbers.
- Division of Community Development continues to manage their federal funds that go to help homeless people throughout the community, youth and elderly programs. Every five years they work on a consolidated plan.
- They receive \$17 million from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for their programs and the focus is on affordable home ownership.
- The war on abandoned housing is a new program, which is trying to improve these houses and the neighborhoods in which they are located. They have 41 houses going through the program this year.
- Historic Preservation continues to see an increase in developments in the historic preservation districts without an increase in staff.
- Economic Development and Real Estate services work with the Mayor's Office to make sure that existing businesses grow and new businesses develop in the City. In 2003 they were able to bring in \$42 million in new tax revenue from new and extended businesses.
- They have new developments and increased activities with the Downtown Canal.

- They also work with the bio-crossroads initiative trying to improve bio-crossroads business and work on grant application.
- They worked on the Eastside Revitalization District to help new businesses locate in that neighborhood.
- Division of Planning continues to review over 1,200 land use petitions. The Regional Center Plan was adopted to guide the downtown toward future strengths. They continue to work on the Market Square Arena site that will provide financial support for low income housing throughout the City.
- Their overall budget is over \$38 million with a decrease of \$3,311,458. They will not decrease any services but will adjust how staff operates. He said \$2 million of their budget will be spent on the people and the streets of the City.

### **Historic Preservation Commission**

David Baker, Director of Historic Preservation Commission, gave a brief overview of the division:

- They have been working with the Chatham-Arch Neighborhood Association to update their preservation plan and the Cumberland Main Street to prepare a conservation plan in Cumberland.
- They recorded a notice of jurisdiction with the County Recorder's Office to ensure when ownership of property is transferred to the new owner, they will be provided with information on their property.
- Their work load has increased. In 2002 they processed 303 applications, and in 2003 they processed 582 applications. They expect to exceed 600 applications in 2004.
- Their budget has decreased 6% (\$22,581) and the only significant increase is \$1,000 for advertising, to publish legal ads for public hearings.

Councillor Nytes asked how they can manage a drop in group insurance. Ms. Lawrence said in some instances there was an over budgeting issue from 2003-2004. Galen Himmelheber, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for DMD, said they had a slight turnover and some employees have coverage on their spouse's insurance. Councillor Nytes asked how they generate their revenues. Mr. Baker said they have application fees and with new construction. Councillor Nytes asked if the \$70,000 will be generated by activities from their department. Mr. Baker replied in the affirmative.

Chairman Talley asked into what fund the revenue will be deposited. Mr. Himmelheber said there is a separate sub-fund that is a part of the Consolidated County Fund.

### **Division of Administration**

Margaret Lawrence, Administrator of Economic Development gave an overview of the division projects:

- Early in the year they closed with the Indiana University School of Medicine for the new Medical Information Science building on the canal. Ground breaking will begin the first of September, 2004.
- New amenities along the canal will bring in additional revenue to the City.
- Keystone Enterprise Park construction is nearly complete and two new businesses are operating in the park.
- They continued their brownfield program and issued \$223,000 in local State and Federal grants to help clean up the environment in Indianapolis.
- They have a reduction of 6.6% (\$270,845) in their proposed 2005 budget. There are additional payments in Line Item 350, Facility Lease and Rentals, \$91,000 and in Line Item 353, Utilities, \$171,600 due to in house functions. They have reductions of \$220,000 in consulting, as they reduced the contract amount with Building Authority.
- They reduced their department charges by \$197,000 due to the decrease in charges from the Corporation Counsel and \$160,000 decrease in internal chargebacks to the federal grant program.

### **Division of Community Development and Financial Services**

Julie Slaughter, Director of Community Development, gave an overview of the division:

- The Division of Community development receives grant funding from HUD. They receive approximately \$17 million in grants per year. They also receive \$3.2 million in continued care funds from HUD to provide services and housing to the homeless.
- The majority of their funding is designated to provide affordable housing opportunities to individuals and their families living at 80% of the median family income.
- Overall, their budget represents a 9.6% (\$2,248,201) decrease. Ninety six percent (96%) of their budget comes from federal funding.

Councillor Gibson asked how much of their grant money goes to community development block grants. Ms. Slaughter said \$11 million goes to block grants.

Councillor Speedy asked for more detail on department chargebacks. Ms. Slaughter said a portion is to reflect about \$160,000 that Community Development is picking up from the DMD Director's Office, which can be charged back to grant funds. She said the other part of that expense comes from the Office of Corporation Counsel. Mr. Himmelheber said Character 05, Internal Charges, is used for accounting measures. This character is a way to get grant revenues over to another division that normally does not budget these grant revenues. Ms. Slaughter said they have three rehabilitation inspectors that are paid out of compliance.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if there is a possibility of pursuing more grants. Ms. Slaughter said they are always pursuing other grants not just for community development, but for other departments, also.

Councillor Nytes asked who the three union positions are. Ms. Slaughter said the rehabilitation inspectors are the union positions. Councillor Nytes asked if the Noble Center qualifies for some of their funding. Ms. Slaughter said she is not sure but would be willing to look into it.

#### CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Talley, Chairman  
Metropolitan Development Committee

ST/as